

REMARKS

The applicant's remarks are preceded by related comments of the examiner shown in bold small type.

5. Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onglao in view of Ferren (US-5,802,190).
Regarding Claim 3, Onglao discloses the loudspeaker system as discussed in claim 2 above. Onglao further discloses a second enclosure that has the same structure as discussed in claim 2 above (i.e., left and right loudspeaker arrays). What does not taught by Onglao is the two loudspeaker arrays are being connected in a detachable matter as claimed.
Ferren discloses linear speaker array arrangement in the same field of endeavor that having different loudspeaker arrays constructed and arranged to be detachably secured to each other in a manner that extends the first substantially straight line so that the height of said loudspeaker system is increased and so that the width of said loudspeaker system remains constant (Ferren discloses arrays are secured together by conventional fastener means (i.e. detachably secured), e.g. nuts and bolts (Figures 7 and 9) for the purpose of providing an audio program to a representative listeners moving beneath the loudspeaker array (col. 2, lines 22-34).
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Onglao and Ferren by arranging the loudspeaker arrays of Onglao in a horizontal linear matter that is detachably secured to each other in a manner that extends the first substantially straight line so that the height of said loudspeaker system is increased and so that the width of said loudspeaker system remains constant for the purpose of providing an audio program to a representative listeners moving beneath the loudspeaker array, as shown by Ferren.

The applicant disagrees. Claim 3 has been amended to clarify that the ratio of the height of said loudspeaker system to said width is at least twenty.

The features of claim 3 would not have been obvious from Onglao and Ferren, taken alone or together.

It is clear that each of Onglao's speaker assemblies must be either a "true left" or "true right" speaker assembly and they are to be used in a pair, one on a left side and the other on a right side of a sound stage. In addition a specific sequence and spacing of speakers and tweeters is defined for each of the left and right assemblies. Not surprisingly, then, Onglao does not describe or suggest "detachably" securing a second assembly to either of his true left or true right assemblies to increase its height, let alone explaining how he would handle the spacings and sequences of speakers and tweeters in the two stacked assemblies.

Ferren, on the other hand, forms an extended linear array by combining multiple individual arrays. But (although he notes that the same music could be played through all of the

individual arrays of the extended array) he emphasizes implementations in which *different* audio signals are played through different arrays for a variety of purposes. His use of different material in the different arrays would have been of no use in Onglao's assemblies, even if (contrary to reality) there would have been some reason to have stacked two of Onglao's assemblies for increased height.

Thus, there would have been no suggestion, motivation, or teaching to a person of ordinary skill in the field to have mounted another one of Onglao's arrays on top of the existing array, both because it would not have been clear how the spacing and sequencing of the speakers and tweeters in the two arrays should be arranged and because, even if there would have been some answer to that question, Onglao likely would not have wanted to play two different audio signals through two different stacked arrays on one side of a stage.

In these circumstances, it can hardly be said that it what is recited in claim 3 would have been obvious from Onglao or Ferren or the two combined.

The applicant calls the examiner's attention to the deliberate broadening of claim 3 by the removal of clauses related to radiating sound in a predetermined frequency range, clauses that had been added to the claim by the applicant in earlier amendments. Related features have now been stated in new claims 23 and 24.

Regarding claim 5, Ferren further discloses an attachment device (nuts and bolts; Column 6, lines 25-28) for attaching said first loudspeaker array to said second loudspeaker array.

Regarding Claim 6, Ferren further discloses an electrical circuit which provides essentially the same audio signal to all of said aconstical drivers at all frequencies (Onglao discloses circuit in Figure 11 which discloses substantially the same audio signal to all of the drivers (26).

Regarding Claim 7, Onglao further discloses the individual arrays may be secured together by fastener means (i.e. may be removed and portable) (Column 6, lines 24-28).

6. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onglao in view of Humphrey (US Patent 4,797,633).

Claims 5, 6, 7, and 10 are patentable for at least the same or similar reasons as claim 3.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.

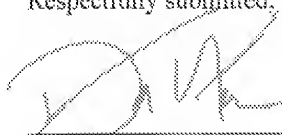
Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, order 02103-393001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/12/01



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